

# Shields Deposition

## Transcript Excerpts

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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
AUSTIN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA PLAINTIFF  
VS. CASE NO. 1:23-cv-00853-DAE  
GREG ABBOTT, in his capacity as  
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF TEXAS,  
And THE STATE OF TEXAS DEFENDANTS

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DEPOSITION OF F. DOUGLAS SHIELDS, JR., PhD

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TAKEN AT THE INSTANCE OF THE PLAINTIFF  
AT THE U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE FOR THE  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI,  
ETHRIDGE BUILDING,  
900 JEFFERSON AVENUE, OXFORD, MISSISSIPPI  
ON JULY 1, 2024, BEGINNING AT 9:01 A.M.

Job No. CS6778899

GENA MATTISON GLENN, MS CSR 1568, TN LCR 884

1 Q. And can Congress only authorize a  
2 project that's compatible with the remaining  
3 network?

4 MR. STONE: Objection, form.

5 A. I'm not authority on what Congress can  
6 do and cannot do. But I can tell you this right  
7 now, that I do know that we have legislation in  
8 this country, the law of the land, that says  
9 water resources projects' benefits must exceed  
10 costs.

11 And again, while my opinion does not  
12 deal with costs, with cash value of benefits,  
13 with any of that stuff, I can just say that if  
14 you have an authorized depth of 4, 5, 6, 7 feet  
15 in your waterway, that means that you're going  
16 to have to offload your barges when you get to  
17 the mouth of that waterway and reload on  
18 something else. You're going to have to have a  
19 special kind of barge, a special kind of  
20 towboat. And, you know, time is money.

21 All this costs money, and it's just --  
22 it's not going to work. It just doesn't work.  
23 And you don't have to have an PhD in economics  
24 to figure that out.

25 BY MR. KNUDSEN: